

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

18 MAY 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

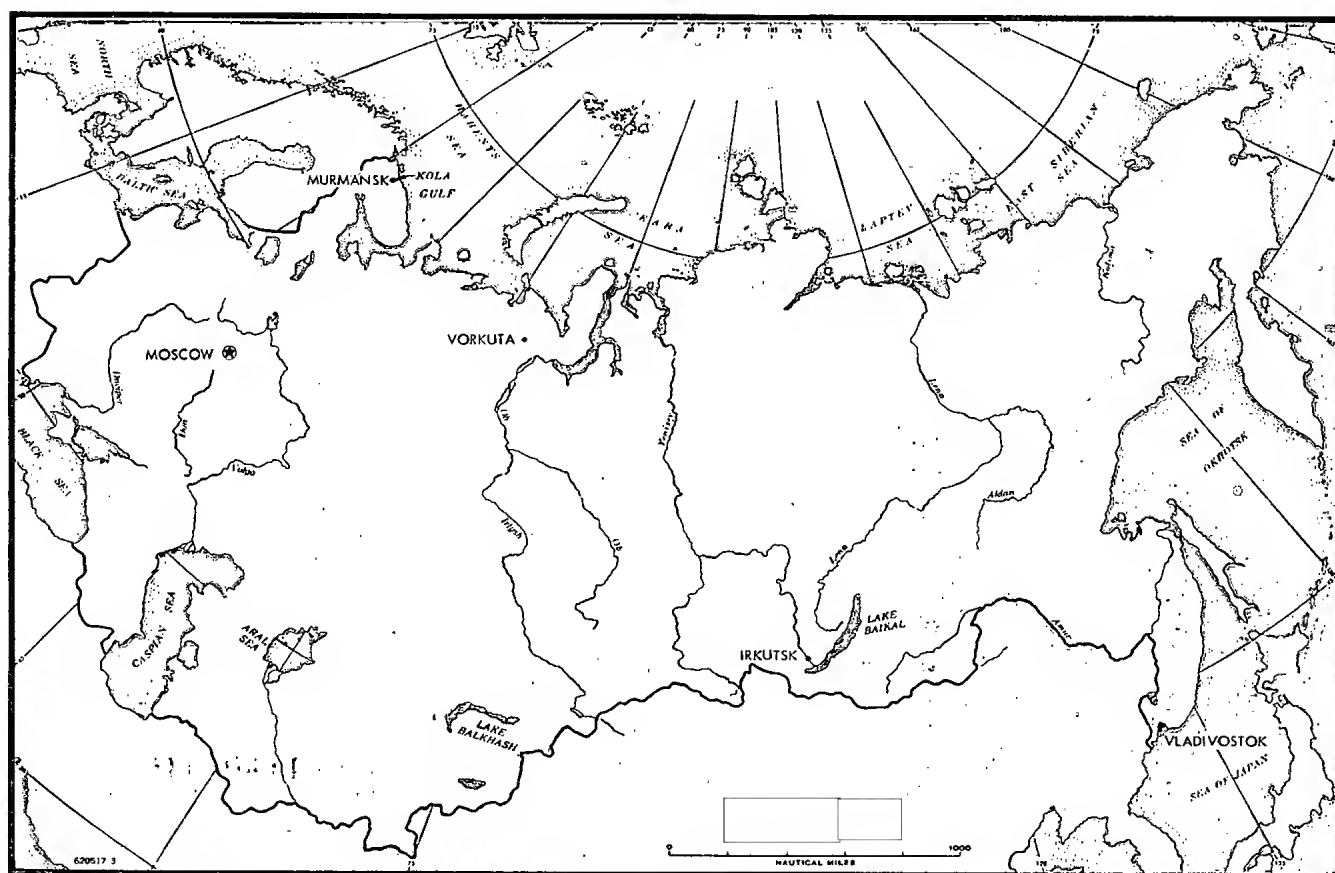
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1. Laos

a. The Thai are far from enthusiastic about having to take contingents from other SEATO countries. 50X1

b. The military situation remains essentially the same. 50X1

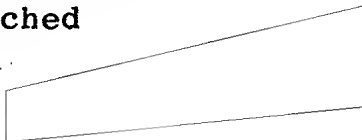
c. Ambassador Brown cautions that he and his British and French colleagues believe that Phoumi is more acceptable to both Souvanna and Souphannouvong in a coalition than is Phoui Sananikone. The latter put Souphannouvong in prison at one time, and, as elder statesman, he represents a greater challenge to Souvanna. Both princes have said they want Phoumi in the coalition to keep him from making trouble from the outside. 50X1



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2. 2,000 mile sea-borne missile launched



We have evidence that a missile was launched earlier this week to a distance of some 2,000 nautical miles on the Soviet Northern Fleet missile range which extends from the Kola Gulf to Irkutsk. The launching vessel may have been a submarine. We do not know whether the missile was cruise-type or ballistic or what degree of success was achieved.

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3. Ecuador military chiefs ousted



President Arosemena, irked by endless demands from military leaders that he purge leftists remaining in the government, has dismissed the defense minister and the army and air force chiefs. Having made the point that he is no puppet of the military, he will probably now turn on the leftists.

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4. Hong Kong refugees



To cut the refugee flow, Hong Kong police are now putting up a bigger and better barbed wire barrier along the colony's border with China. For the first time in recent weeks, the number returned to China on Tuesday exceeded the number coming out; at one point on the border Communist guards were forcibly blocking refugees from escaping.

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5. EEC Council threatens retaliation against US

The Belgian Foreign Trade Minister has advised us that the only chance--a "slim one"--of heading off EEC retaliation against US carpet and glass tariffs is for the US in the next few days to offer "satisfactory" tariff reductions on other items. The council has decided--with some French prodding--to establish quotas or cancel concessions on a variety of US goods (tobacco, textiles, chemicals). Until now, it has refused to consider anything but a modification or cancellation of the US increase, but its members evidently are now convinced this will not be done. 50X1

6. Syrian leaders explore new union with Egypt

The Syrian leaders, their hold on power still very slender, hope to neutralize pro-Nasir elements, thus freeing their hands to deal with their many other opponents. We expect Nasir to play a cautious game, mostly because of skepticism that the current regime in Damascus can make any agreement stick. 50X1

7. West New Guinea

a. The Indonesian Cabinet, advised by armed forces chief Nasution that he could not mount an effective offensive until 1 December, unanimously decided to complete Indonesia's military build-up by that date. Nasution says that Subandrio was accordingly sent to Mosco^{50X1} to make the necessary arrangements.

b. Dutch forces have made contact with the Indonesian paratroops dropped on the New Guinea coast earlier this week. Late press reports today say "heavy fighting" is taking place near the point of landing.^{50X1}

NOTES

- A. [] The Soviet space research program continues active, with many indications of more launchings soon. [] 50X1
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- B. [] The Soviet research ship which monitored effects of high altitude Soviet tests last fall, has now shown up in the US Pacific test area. [] 50X1
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- C. [] The Soviet Berlin Commandant refused, in his meeting yesterday with General Watson, to drop the stipulation that civilian advisers accompanying the western Commandants would have to identify themselves to the East Germans. No further meetings were scheduled. 50X1
- D. [] President Abboud, in negotiations with the Soviet civil air delegation due to arrive today, will insist on Sudan's right to hire crews of any nationality (including US) to fly Sudanese planes over the USSR. The Soviets may well boggle at this stipulation which, even if accepted eventually, will prolong discussions. 50X1
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DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST

I.

II.

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE